

BE AWARE OF A REAL RISK!

Construction of towers in rural areas throughout the U.S. is a concern to many in the aviation industry. These vertical obstacles are a major safety concern to medical helicopter operations, aerial applicators, aerial fire fighting, predator control, aerial wildlife surveys, military operations and others. These towers are often just under 200 feet tall, falling just outside FAA regulations governing tall structure. The number of cell phone, wind-energy and other towers erected throughout the U.S. in agricultural regions has increased significantly over the past several years and is projected to continue into the future.

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Your Aviation Safety Web Site

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Federal Aviation
Administration

TOWERS

UNLIT

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UNMARKED

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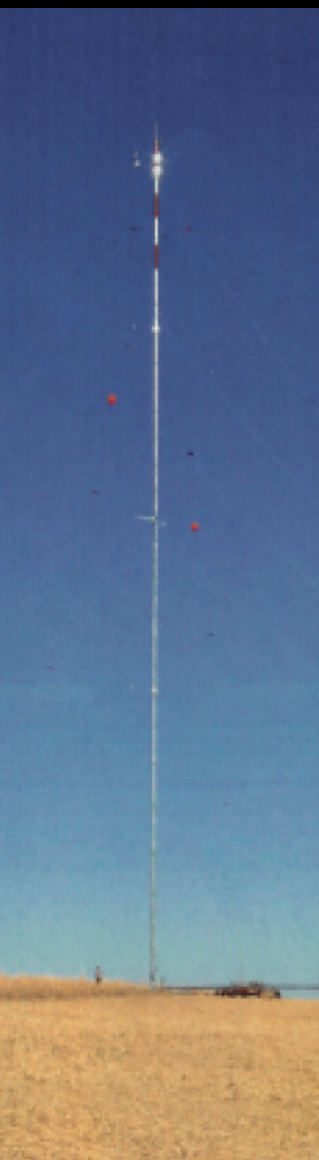
UNCHARTED

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UNDETECTED

Meteorological towers are a safety concern to operations including medical air rescue (HEMES), aerial application, law enforcement, pipeline patrol, and others because they are constructed on or near rural areas, may not be marked with lights or other marking devices

and can be erected in hours. Additionally, the lack of color, small size (just under 200 feet) and small footprint can make an uncharted tower very difficult to see. These circumstances, along with the projected growth in the wind energy industry creates a risk to the aviation community that operate at low altitudes. Remember, adhere to 14 CFR 91.119 Minimum Safe Altitudes.



CAN YOU SPOT THE TOWER?

It may be too late...

Many towers are just below 200 feet in height, only a few inches in diameter, unlit, and dull gray in color, making them very difficult to see from the air.



BE AWARE AND FLY SAFE!

Towers can be erected in hours!

AG operators returning to a field after a few days or a few hours may find a tower that wasn't there earlier.

Towers may have a small footprint!

The small size may leave little ground disturbance (footprint) to indicate the towers presence. However, at times, the footprint may be easier to spot than the tower itself!

*The tower **COLOR** may be difficult to see!*

Many towers are just under 200 feet tall, light gray in color, unlit, and do not have markers to note any support cables. Check the internet to see if your state maintains a tower registry, and check your route as part of the preflight.

FERRY ABOVE 5 AND STAY ALIVE

Aerial application's Professional Aerial Applicator's Support System® (PAASS) safety program slogan reminding pilots to fly above 500 feet except when the operation requires flying at a lower altitude.